ARE CALVINISTS SAVED?

OUR MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

2 Corinthians 11:4 (KJV)

4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

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AGENDA

• Approach to this topic
• False doctrine and false teachers
• Calvinism has no Gospel
  • Gospel means “good news”
  • Election is only good news in Calvinism
• Basis of Calvinist Salvation Assurance
  • Conversion Experience (evanescent grace)
  • Witness of The Spirit
  • Works and perseverance
• Calvinistic Election occurs outside Christ
• Calvinism is not Christianity
First, I want to make it perfectly clear that we would never presume to be able to possess the ability to pronounce the salvation status of specific individuals. Nor would this particular topic originate on the lesson agenda if it were not asked with such frequency.

What happens is that we cover the gospel, the scripture, and scriptural authority, and upon simple examination, people are putting two and two together, and they realize that Calvinism is at complete odds with the Gospel with scripture, with the God of scripture, and with the Jesus of scripture.

So at what point does someone vary from other Christians in a way that is inconsequential, to the point where they cross the line into a real that is frankly, unchristian. That is the unavoidable question that surfaces when examining the Neo-gnostic system we call Calvinism.
This is always a question that comes up when dealing with groups such as Jehovah’s witnesses or Mormons. Genuine Christians can be involved in a lot of error, and they are still Christians. But then there is a threshold. We don’t necessarily know what that is, but there is a point of error at which we can be pretty sure that at least a percentage of adherents are definitely not saved, and that if any are saved, it is *despite* the system, and not because of the system.

For example, no Mormon’s are saved *BECAUSE* of Mormonism. If they are saved, it is because of something that occurred either before, outside of, or despite their Mormonism. But we are used to saying this sort of thing about Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses. Those with a background like mine won’t hesitate to say this about Catholics.
There is an unwritten rule in mainstream Christianity that is frankly unfortunate. What’s happening is that we as a whole have developed our own sort of Political Correctness, where certain possibilities are off the table in any kind of discourse. Paul was in perils among false brethren, and the Bible is chalk full of warnings about false teachers and false Christ. Assuming that everyone is a genuine Christian who claims to be is frankly a violation of scripture. We need to be on guard. However, on the other hand, we don’t want the accusation of being “unsaved” to be the go-to line of argument every time someone doesn’t see scripture the same way you do. That is also quite childish, and ultimately invalidates sound arguments for other doctrinal positions. It gets to be a ploy, sort of like liberals playing the race card every time they can’t seem to find ideological merit for their position.
2 Corinthians 11:26 (KJV)

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

Note specifically the warnings about a false Jesus, false spirit, false gospel, and satanic apostles that occur earlier in this chapter, laying the contextual ground word for this “false brethren” designation.
If you have any experience dealing with Calvinists, you already know that the more childish ones will start resorting to 1 Corinthians 2:14 pretty quickly when they can’t get the doctrinal upper hand with substance. They claim that you don’t understand their position because you’re a natural, unsaved man, and that the truth hasn’t been revealed to you. A couple of issues here; firstly, that passage isn’t talking about that at all. More on that in a future video. Secondly, they just affirmed that they think knowledge is disseminated in accordance with Gnostic principles rather than how scripture describes. So we are going to approach this issue in generalities, and we recommend that you do the same. We don’t want to use this issue as accusatory ammo against specific individuals.
2 Corinthians 2:17 (KJV)
17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:2 (KJV)
2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
Galatians 1:6-9 (KJV)

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.
2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (KJV)

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.
But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.
NO GOSPEL IN CALVINISM

Gospel means good news. The definition of the Gospel is in Romans 1:16, the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes. The content of the Gospel is in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, the death, burial and resurrection of Christ according to the scriptures.

But if you ask Calvinist what the Gospel is without them seeing something like this first, then you will get some funny answers.

Romans 1:16 (KJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (KJV)

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:
Walter: “The gospel is the good news about what God has already done for you. The gospel is what God had done in history to save us, rather than advice about what we must do to reach God. The gospel is news that Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection in history has achieved our salvation...Jesus does not bring good news; He is the good news. Jesus is Lord, repent and believe. But because of the blindness sin has cast over us, Jesus says no one can believe in Him unless the Father grants it through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (John 6:63-65; John 3:3-8). So those who, by the grace of God, trust in Jesus and His work can be assured, on the sure testimony of Scripture, that their sins are forgiven and have the promise of God: eternal life.”

John 6:27 (KJV)
27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

John 6:32-33 (KJV)
32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

Titus 3:5?
Titus 3:5 (KJV)
5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

1 Corinthians 1:21 (KJV)
21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.
2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV)

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

John 6:27, 32-33 (KJV)

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

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33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.
John 6:65 (KJV)

65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.
John 6:27, 32-33 (KJV)

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

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John 1:11-12 (KJV)
11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
In Calvinism, the Biblical Gospel, that is, the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ, is not “good news” for most people. Christ didn’t die for most people in Calvinism, so therefore, it’s not good news for them at all. In fact, it’s completely inconsequential whatsoever to most people. What makes Christ’s death and resurrection consequential to someone? Why it’s simple. It matters if they’re one of the elect. If they’ve been chosen. What this means is that it’s not actually the death or resurrection of Christ that matters at all. The only thing that matters is one’s election. If you’re elect, you’re good. If not, too bad. At the end of the day, the death and resurrection of Christ is just peripheral as far as anyone is concerned. Only their election matters.
Are you a sinner? Sure.
Do you have a remedy for your sin? Well, that depends on whether you’re elect or not.
So in Calvinism, the Biblical gospel isn’t good news at all because you have no idea whether or not Christ died for you to begin with.
The only good news for the individual is if they find out that they are one of the elect. You can’t trust in Christ’s blood if it wasn’t shed for you. The only thing left to trust is in your election; the idea that you were chosen.
Can you get saved by trusting your election rather than trusting Christ? No you can’t. So are those trusting something other than Christ saved? You might think so, but I wouldn’t bet on it. We’re all trusting the same Christ right. Just theological differences, right? Not so fast and not in any assembly of which I am a part.
When considering the **assurance of Salvation** for the Calvinist, let’s take a look at what they are relying on. So they cannot trust a Christ that they don’t know whether He died for them. But they can **trust their conversion experience**. To their reasoning, the fact that they believe the gospel is **evidence of** their regeneration, and therefore that they are saved. Of course, there’s no way for them to tell the difference between **genuine faith and evanescent faith**. So, hey, I was regenerated. That means Christ died for me, right? I also have the witness of the Holy Spirit inside me, and that’s evidence that I’m saved. Well, how do you know it’s the Holy Spirit and not **some other spirit** like both Paul and John warn in the New Testament?
Well, the Bible tells me that God’s children have the witness of the Spirit, so that is corroborating evidence of my salvation, right? But the Bible also says that Christ tasted death for every man, and you don’t believe that. It says that Christ gave himself as a ransom for all, and you don’t believe that. How do you, as a Calvinist, pick which passages you do and don’t believe. As long as you’re doing that, you’ll never have the assurance of God’s word on anything.

So there’s the experience of conversion or regeneration. Then there’s the witness of the Holy Spirit. Finally, there is the Calvinist’s perseverance in good works. A Calvinist knows that they are saved because they can rely on their perseverance in good works.
The fifth point in the Gnostic TULIP is Perseverance of the Saints. Many people confuse this for the Biblical doctrine of eternal security, the idea that the saved cannot lose their salvation. However, that’s not this doctrine at all. This doctrine assumes salvation is secure due to election, but then takes the next step and says that those who are truly elect will persevere in good works up until the end of their life. You see, you need a doctrine like that if you have a church state in Geneva that has to maintain the air of having control over the behavior of their people. You know, “glory in their flesh,” as Paul words it (Gal. 6:13). If the Calvinist is persevering in good works, then that helps secure their assurance that they are one of the elect.
Galatians 6:13 (KJV)
13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

John 6:45 (KJV)
45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath (1) heard, and hath (2) learned of the Father, (3) cometh unto me.

Bible:  Hear  ➔ Learn  ➔ Come
Calvinism:  Come  ➔ Hear  ➔ Learn
In response to one of my videos, a relatively well known and quite conceited Calvinist claimed assurance of Salvation based on the fact that he had heard and learned of the Father. Funny thing is, the verse he was basing that on (John 6:45) has the person coming to the Father as a result of hearing and learning of the Father, while Calvinists use the same section of scripture to teach that no one can learn or hear of the father until after they were forced to come to begin with. Once you start denying scripture for philosophy, it only gets worse and worse. Calvinism is nothing more than a collection of excellent and compelling philosophical reasons to deny scriptural authority.
So Calvinist have no Gospel. The death, burial and resurrection of Christ is not good news if one is not elect. Election is the good news, that is the gospel of the Calvinist. Since they cannot rely objectively on Christ, they must rely subjectively on their experience and works for their salvation. While we would only limit this to assurance, at the end of the day, it must be that on which they rely since they don’t trust scripture and therefore have no other method of indication that Christ died for them. What do they trust? Their election. Is that the Gospel? No. Now they will deny this vehemently, but you just have to spend a few minutes with them to get them to realize that there’s no denying it in reality.
2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (KJV)
14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:
15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

1 Timothy 2:6 (KJV)
6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Hebrews 2:9 (KJV)
9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

1 John 2:2 (KJV)
2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.
Christ died for Calvinists according to evidences of election:
- conversion experience
- witness of the spirit experience
- works

The Believer knows Christ died for them:
- according to the scriptures
The Jesus of Scripture died for all (2 Cor. 5:14-15). The Jesus of Scripture is a ransom for all (1 Tim. 2:6). The Jesus of Scripture tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9). He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).

Paul warns of another Jesus:

2 Corinthians 11:4 (KJV)

4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.
Paul warns again of another Gospel:

**Galatians 1:6-9 (KJV)**

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

If election is the only good news a person can hear in Calvinism, then those who preach it are accursed, because that is not the Gospel Paul preached.
Notice how *we’ve gotten to the very core of Christianity*. Who is Jesus Christ? What did Jesus Christ do? The first mark of a cult is being wrong about the person and work of Christ. 

So we’re not dealing with the color of the carpet, or church buildings, or tithing, or Christian modesty, or Christian music, or any number of other things. We are dealing with the absolute core of Christianity. Jesus and the Gospel. It does not get any more “ESSENTIAL” than this. Calvinism is not a peripheral, non-essential theological movement. It is a full attack against the very heart of the Gospel and against the person of Jesus Christ.
Their Gospel is election. Their Jesus is not the one in Scripture. Their election occurs outside of Christ. It occurs before time, but they don’t get placed in Christ until the moment of their regeneration which occurs within time. So their salvation was secured outside Christ. By definition, this is not Christianity. The Calvinist Christ is not the center of salvation. He’s just a component that plays his part somewhere along the line on behalf of people who are already secure in their election from the perspective of an eternal divinity. Calvinism is more Hinduism than it is Christianity. It removes Christ from his supreme throne, and demotes him to a piker that plays a miniscule role for those who have the bigger benefit of election itself. Calvinism degrades the Christ of Scripture.
Biblical Christianity revolves around faith in Christ. It pivots on the concept of those who receive Christ and those who receive him not. But Calvinism invents a system where people who have no faith in Christ are regenerated fatalistically, essentially having nothing to do with Christ at all. Christ just comes behind the election and regeneration and sweeps up the leftover mess and tries to get them sanctified up just a bit. What is Christ in Calvinism? – an afterthought, after salvation was secured by election. The Calvinist Christ isn’t the author and finisher of anything. So to be clear, this system, like any cult system, is not Christian. So now what about the people who are in it.
I will give you my take based on wisdom guided by experience when it comes to this matter, Just as we discussed earlier about the other cults. There are different classes of Calvinists, including, but not limited to the following.

1. Indigenous Calvinists (Presbyterian Convert)
2. Evangelical Calvinist – saved before they were turned to Calvinism.
3. Indelible Enthusiast, aficionados – Celebrity, Academic, and Religious leaders who advocate this perspective
For those whose first Christian experience is a Calvinist one, assessing whether or not they are saved would be just like anyone else. You’d have to talk with them and find out from them whether they’ve trusted Christ or not.

Concerning your typical evangelical Calvinist, most of them will tell you that when they got saved, they were not Calvinist. They usually say, “I was an Arminian when I got saved.” That’s completely erroneous because when they got saved, they most likely had no idea who Jacob Arminius was and were not following his teachings. Arminianism is only something people pretend to know about after they become aware of Calvinism, but they usually are still ignorant of the fact that Arminius was a Calvinist.
What they’re really trying to say, thinly veiled in a jabbing polemic is that when they trusted Christ, they presumed that he died for them, and they saw faith as a prerequisite for salvation, rather than a result. I’ve cited from R. C. Sproul’s testimony many times on this channel, how his salvation testimony was in his pre-Calvinist days. Most of them have a similar testimony. A lot of Calvinists will say, “I used to believe what you believe.” That’s erroneous too because they never can describe what I believe. If they ever believed what I believe, they never would have become Calvinists to begin with because they would have known their Bible much better. But I know what they mean. They simple mean that they were not Calvinists when they got saved.
So, many of these types of Calvinist probably are saved. We have to realize that even in Bible believing churches, there is always a contingent that is playing the game and may not be genuinely saved. We don’t know who all those people are, so take these generalized comments with a grain of salt. So there are likely many genuine believers who have been hijacked by false doctrine along the way. The question is, how far along will a genuine believer go down the wrong path until the Holy Spirit jerks some sense back into them. Many non-Calvinists are former Calvinists who were led into Bible believing Christianity out of Gnosticism after they spent some time there. It’s my personal biblically and experientially informed opinion that genuinely saved
people will eventually come out of Calvinistic Gnosticism. That is, of those who are paying attention. There are always the saved people who just go to work and look for a church that has music they like or a good program for the kids. There’s no telling about some of those guys. But as soon as someone starts taking their faith seriously and gets into the Word of God, they will eventually come out of Calvinism if they really have the witness of the Spirit in them.

Now, the next class of people is the class that buckles, down, fortifies, and stays with Calvinism for the long haul, as an advocate and apologist. The only way a person can be like this is if they are a few fries short of a happy meal, or if they have resigned to deliberately deceiving people.
So we quickly get into the realm of false teachers who deny scripture and deny the Lord that bought them in exchange for a lord that isn’t described in scripture, and who only bought a few hapless souls who are easily pacified with an inaccurate Bible that’s full of lies. The false teachers in 2 Peter 2 go to hell. The false teachers in 2 Corinthians 11 are satanic ministers who have been deceitfully transformed into ministers of righteousness who deceive simple-minded people with good words and fair speeches. They believe a false gospel of election; they have no real gospel; they rely on experience and works for assurance; they don’t trust scripture, and they have a false Jesus who did not taste death for every man.
Romans 16:17-18 (KJV)

17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.
Now it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out that this persuasion is not from the God of the Bible, and is not a product of the Holy Spirit residing in anyone. But civility dictates that we call them “brother,” right? Civility dictates that we co-exist in the same denomination, claiming to believe in the same Jesus and the same God, right? This is like volunteering to put deadly poison on the same dinner plate as your food, and just try not to get them mixed up.

Just as radical Jihadists use our nation’s good will, tolerance, and political correctness against us to infiltrate us, Calvinists do the same thing. They guilt us into taking the high road and accepting them as brethren, making us out to be the bad guys for calling a spade a spade,
all the while, they are using our civility against us, infiltrating our churches covertly, manipulating us by using our own good will against us. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, as they say. If you’ve ever suffered the heartache of finding out that a pastor or youth minister with all sorts of relationships in your church turns out to have been a Calvinist all along…all that comes from the same Spirit you’ve got inside you, does it?

Now let’s not kid ourselves about what we can know. I’m not going to sit here and try to tell you that any particular individual is or is not saved. But any system that employs covert infiltration in an ecclesiastic setting is not of God.
So now we venture into the arena where we have to divide between the theoretical and the practical. You and I cannot assess whether or not a person really is saved, but we do have a responsibility to PRACTICALLY guard our assemblies based solely on people’s behavior, since we cannot see their heart.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 (KJV)
14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. [Principle]
15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. [disorderly conduct, not doctrine]
Matthew 18:15-17 (KJV)

15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

This scenario is not a doctrinal scenario. But the principle still applies. While we can’t know if someone is saved for sure, we should treat them in accordance with their behavior.
Ephesians 5:11 (KJV)
11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Titus 3:10 (KJV)
10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

1 Corinthians 5:11 (KJV)
11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.
1 Timothy 6:3-5 (KJV)

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.
Romans 16:17-18 (KJV)
17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.
18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.
1 Corinthians 14:8 (KJV)
8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

2 Corinthians 3:12 (KJV)
12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

The worst thing you can do for a Calvinist is play along and be their enabler in their fantasy that Calvinism has anything to do with Christianity. By doing so, you are not being civil and kind, and temperate. You are aiding and abetting confusion, false doctrine and deception.
Just like we owe the gospel to lost people (Rom. 1:14), we owe a clear distinction to Calvinists. We owe it to them to tell them clearly and plainly that their doctrine is not scripture, their Jesus is not Biblical, and their system will never be part of any Bible believing assembly of any kind. As long as we enable them by calling them “brother” and treating their system like it’s just another valid viewpoint, we help prolong the evil. We must make a clear verbal and practical distinction when it comes to Calvinism and Calvinists. It is not just an optional way of behaving. It is our duty. If you’re going to drink water from the trough, you also need to pick up a sword and shield and earnestly contend for the faith.
Romans 1:14-15 (KJV)

14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.
Summary:
We cannot know for sure whether another individual is saved or lost (other than one’s self).
Calvinism has a false gospel, a false Jesus, and perpetuates false philosophy as doctrine.
Calvinists cannot rely on the promises of the word of God concerning Christ for their assurance, so they must trust their experience and their works.
It is our duty to clearly distinguish between truth and error, clearly identifying Calvinism for the error that is it.
We must keep our assemblies free from this error.
QUESTIONS?